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AUTHOR Broughton, Elizabeth
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ABSTRACT

This paper opens with the following questions: "How prepared are you as a student affairs professional for information communication technology (ICT)? Do you understand such concepts as portals, e-business, Napster, computer use policies, and wireless communication? Will student affairs be shaped by ICT or will student affairs help shape ICT on our campuses?" After noting that some student affairs professionals are threatened by ICT, the paper lists 10 guidelines, developed by Komives and Petersen (1997), to consider when utilizing ICT. It then describes Web sites for student affairs professionals on using ICT. The sites are listed under the following categories: Professional Resource Information; Student Learning; Assessment; and Service Delivery. (AEF)

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Running head: Information Communication Technology (ICT) Shaping Student Affairs

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Information Communication Technology (ICT) Shaping Student Affairs

Elizabeth Broughton, Ed.D.
elizabeth.broughton@emich.edu

Eastern Michigan University

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Information Communication Technology (ICT) Shaping Student Affairs

How prepared are you as a student affairs professional for information communication technology (ICT)? Do you understand such concepts as portals, e-business, napster, computer use policies, and wireless communication? Will student affairs be shaped by ICT or will student affairs help shape ICT on our campuses?

Technology is shaping an increasingly important role in our professional work and personal lives. A paradigm shift from an industrial society to an Internet Age is rapidly occurring. Some student affairs practitioners fear that "high tech" will replace the "high touch" foundation of the profession. Some believe that the founding principles such as, "each student is unique" or developing the whole student, is challenged by ICT. Barratt (2000) stated that student affairs personalities and those personalities who are technological focused are an unlikely pairing, like mixing oil and water. So some practitioners are threatened by ICT.

Komives and Petersen (1997) stated that this perceived threat does not have to happen as long as student affairs professionals guide the applications and information technology with student affairs principles and values. In order to feel more comfortable with ICT, Komives and Petersen offered 10 useful guidelines to consider when utilizing ICT.

1. Don't panic
2. Find time to learn about ICT and develop and understanding of its use on a campus.
3. Attend a professional development program on technology.
4. Maintain a balance between ICT and person contact (involving face to face communication).
5. Provide educational programs to inform students and staff regarding the legal, ethical, and responsible behavior with ICT.

6. Financially support resources to assist campus ICT.
7. Discover how information technology can assist personal professional development.
8. Establish a strategic (staff) plan for updating ICT.
9. Embrace a futurist perspective for ICT.
10. Focus on student affairs principles when dealing with ICT.

Following these useful guidelines, the next section provides websites for a student affair practitioner to explore and learn ICT. Several years ago, a previous website listing was developed applying 5 categories: resource information, student learning, surveys and research, service delivery, and information dissemination (Seabreeze, 1997). This next section is a newly created list organized with 4 of the above 5 main categories.

These websites are far from complete. ICT is changing rapidly (and new sites are added, deleted, or updated daily) so readers are encouraged to sample these websites, and to continue exploring.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE INFORMATION:

These sites are directed at general information about student affairs and higher education.

1. Student Affairs.Com (http://www.studentaffairs.com)

The premier website in student affairs. It lists hundreds of websites, Internet discussion groups, job listings, conference information, and an online-magazine about technology and Student Affairs. Recently, the site added on-line courses.

2. ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education (http://www.eriche.org/main.html)

This website espouses to be "your gateway to higher education information on the web." Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, it provides useful information for higher education issues.

3. ERIC Clearinghouse for Community Colleges (http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/ERIC/eric.html)

This website provides useful information related to community colleges.

STUDENT LEARNING:

These sites are organized for practitioners to learn more about students and learning as well as issues confronting the student learner.

1. The Character Clearinghouse (http://www.collegevalues.org)

According to this website, its function has 2 major resources: an electronic journal on character education and a character clearinghouse.

2. The Campus Ecologist (http://wbarratt.indstate.edu/ce)

This site hosts back issues on The Campus Ecologist which is a newsletter exchanging information, ideas and resources about students and their environments.

3. First Year Experience (http://www.sc.edu/fye/)

A national resource center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition.

4. Campus Mediation Resources (http://www.mtds.wayne.edu/campus.htm)

This site supports the development of mediation and conflict resolution services at colleges and universities. Another helpful resource website: Resolve-it College (http://www.culma.wayne.edu/CMHER/cyber/Resolveit.html).

5. Diversityweb (http://www.diversityweb.org/

This site is an interactive resource hub for higher education organized around 7 campus diversity priorities.

6. The Higher Education Ctr for Alcohol & Drug Prevention (http://www.edu.org/hec)

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this site provides alcohol and drug prevention resources for colleges and universities. Another helpful resource website: BACCHUS & GAMMA Peer Education Network (http://www.bacchusgamma.org/

7. Dr. Grohol's Mental Health Page (http://www.PsychCentral.com/)

This website provides information related to mental health issues and resources. Another helpful website: Rethink Inc. (http://www.pro98six.com/homepage.php)

8. CIRCLE Network (http://www.circlenetwork.org/)

This website focuses on students and administrators who want to improve campus life. The site seems to connect to leadership development issues. Another helpful website: Leadershape (http://www.leadershape.org)

ASSESSMENT:

These sites are organized for practitioners to learn about assessment in student affairs and higher education.

1. North Carolina State University
   (http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/survey/resource.htm)

This premier site contains website links to many assessment tools as well as links to university assessment efforts in higher education.

2. Student Affairs Research (UNC-Charlotte) (http://www.uncc.edu/stuaffairs/research.htm

A university website that provides information on students and to provide links to information technology issues and resources in student affairs.

3. Student Life Assessment (UNC-Wilmington) (http://www.uncwil.edu/stulife/)

An interesting student life website which provides UNC-Wilmington student data as well as departmental program evaluation and strategic initiatives.

4. Evaluation Center (Western Michigan University) (http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/)

This website's mission is to provide national and international leadership for advancing the theory and practice of program, personnel, and student/constituent evaluation.

5. ACPA Commission IX: Assessment for Student
   Development (http://www.acpa.nche.edu/comms/comm09/dragon/dragon-index.html

An invaluable website for student affairs practitioners who would like to have access to many sources of assessment instruments. This site is highly recommended.

SERVICE DELIVERY:

These sites are organized around student affairs functional areas which provide direct services to students.

<u>Admissions</u>

1. Campus Tours: Virtual College Tours (http://www.campustours.com/)

A website which introduces prospective students to links for many institutions in higher education.

2. Embark (http://www.embark.com)

An online resource for students to apply and finance their college career.

3. College Net (http://collegeNET.com/

It is a portal site for applying to colleges.

4. Education Connect (http://EducationConnect.com/)

This website has detailed information on 2-and 4-year undergraduate institutions in the United States and more.

Financial Aid

1. The Student Guide
(http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/StudentGuide/)

This website is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education which provides a student guide on financial aid.

2. FinAid (http://www.finaid.org/)

A commercial website which states that it is the "SmartStudent guide to financial aid."

3. Fast Web Scholarship Search (http://FastWeb.com/)

A commercial website allowing students to search for scholarships, colleges and jobs.

Career Services

1. What Can I Do with A Major in..(UNC-Wil.)
(http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/majors.htm/)

A great career services website for students especially those who need information about what they can do with a major.

2. The Career Services Kiva (http:/www.careerserviceskiva.com)

This website espouses to be a "professional gathering place for college career counselors."

Health

1. Student Doctor Network (http://www.medstudents.net/)

This website is an interactive medical student lounge entitled " the network for every student doctor."

Other Sites

1. Student Online (http://www.studentonline.com/)

This website states that this is the first web-based and wireless intranet portals for higher education.

2. Campus Pipeline (http://www.campuspipeline.com/)

A portal connection for a college campus to interface with their computer infrastructure.

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